

The Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

Holy Communion ✘ December 24, 2018—9:00 PM

PRELUDE - SPECIAL MUSIC — TIM ANDREWS, JOE CLINE,
GREG STORAT

✘ ✘ ✘

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

HYMN #283

“OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

GREETING

P: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.
God be with you.

C: And also with you.

HYMN #289

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

P: O LORD our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

HYMN #276

“INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”

SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14

VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 2:1-20

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #275

“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

THE PRAYERS

(Response: **“Your mercy is great”**)

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING — SPECIAL MUSIC — TIM ANDREWS, JOE CLINE, GREG STORAT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Holy God,

C: your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER—*prayed by the Pastor*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

P: Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

THE HOLY COMMUNION HYMNS: #279, #296, #277, #270

BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF HAND CANDLES

*The pastor takes a large candle and lights it from the altar candle. The acolytes light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.** The choir anthem is sung while the candles are being lit.*

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 1:1-5, 14

HYMN #281

"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #267

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — "JOY TO THE WORLD MEDLEY" — CAROL TORNQUIST

✠ ✠ ✠

PLEASE NOTE: - For those people wishing to take Holy Communion without wine, there are four cups in the center of the Communion tray with grape juice.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

610-965-9500 e-mail: bluechch@ptd.net Website: stpaulscoopersburg.com

Pastor: Rev. James Hammond 610-437-1960; jitrev1@verizon.net

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048; e-mail:
bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant: The Rev. James Hammond
Organist: Dr. Jennifer Dodd
Greeters: John & Marcy Sumoski
Assisting Minister: Amy Ortwein
Lector: Amy Ortwein
Ushers: Greg & Wendy Storat
Church Council Rep: Ron Fried

THANKS TO OUR INSTRUMENTALISTS AND MUSICIANS THIS EVENING. Blue Church especially thanks our resident musician, Dr. Jennifer Dodd, Tim Andrews, Joe Cline, Greg Storat, Abigail Dodd, and our choir, for leading us in song and praise tonight and throughout the year. *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

**WORSHIP NEXT WEEKEND, CHRISTMAS 1:
Sunday, December 30, 10:30 AM**

May the twelve days of Christmas be a season of joy and renewal in spirit for you, and may the coming Epiphany of our Lord be a time when the radiance of Christ shines brightly upon our broken world as we await the promised return of our Savior Jesus Christ to redeem us all.

Blessed Christmas!

Thanks to the following people who sponsored the poinsettia that adorn the altar area this Christmas:

**ANNE NICHOLS
SANDRA DENORA
GENIE MATTSON
OLESKOWITZ FAMILY
SUE STORAT
CAROL & RON STOUTT
PASTOR JIM
PAULA & MIKE CLARK**